



Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF VENTURA
Hall of Justice
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Michael D. Planet
Executive Officer/Clerk
and Jury Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DRUG COURTS TO HOLD GRADUATION AND REUNION

The Ventura Superior Court will hold a Drug Court Graduation and Recognition Ceremony on Wednesday, May 24, 2006, at 3:00 p.m. in Courtroom 22 of the Hall of Justice.

Two Dependency Drug Court participants and two Juvenile Drug Court participants are scheduled to graduate. All past drug court graduates are invited to attend. The ceremony will be presided over by Judge Donald D. Coleman and Judge Tari L. Cody.

Drug court is designed to hold substance abusers responsible for their actions while providing them with the tools they need to rebuild their lives. Graduation marks the completion of a minimum 12-month program of comprehensive drug treatment, close supervision and full accountability. All drug court participants undergo treatment and counseling, submit to frequent and random drug testing, make regular appearances before the drug court judge, and are closely monitored for compliance.

Since the inception of the two programs, more than 550 people have enrolled in the drug courts. There are currently more than 55 participants in the two programs and numerous graduates and success stories from both drug courts.

Juvenile Drug Court began in September 1999. It is a program for minors charged with drug violations. The program seeks to decrease juvenile criminal recidivism, increase school attendance and performance, achieve sobriety, reduce juvenile arrest for drug and alcohol related offenses, and decrease violent crime.

Dependency Drug Court is a program for mothers who have given birth to newborns prenatally exposed to alcohol or drugs. It seeks to provide the earliest possible intervention for newborns while strengthening the ability of their family to care for them. Successful completion of the program results in early reunification of the family. Dependency Drug Court has been in operation since November 2000.

The two drug court programs represent the collaborative effort of the Ventura Superior Court, Ventura County District Attorney's Office, Ventura County Public Defender's Office, Ventura County Probation Agency, Ventura County Behavioral Health Alcohol and Drug Programs, Ventura County Public Health, Ventura County Human Services Agency Children and Family Services, CalWORKs Job and Career Centers, and local community treatment providers.

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